

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. JAPAN: DOING BUSINESS WITH THE NEW CABINET

IN A YEAR'S-END SURVEY OF FRICTIONS IN US-JAPANESE ECONOMIC RELATIONS, EMBASSY TOKYO CITES SEVERAL ACTIONS WHICH THE US COULD TAKE THAT WOULD SMOOTH AND STRENGTHEN OUR TIES WITH JAPAN. CONCLUDING THAT THE CURRENT BILATERAL TRADE IMBALANCE IN JAPAN'S FAVOR NEED NOT BE AN ISSUE SO LONG AS THE US GLOBAL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REMAINS SOUND, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IN 1977 WE:

--CONSIDER SELLING ALASKAN OIL TO JAPAN, WHICH BADLY NEEDS TO DIVERSIFY ITS ENERGY SOURCES;

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--PRESS THE GOJ TO ADOPT EXPANSIONARY DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICIES AT HOME IN ORDER TO INCREASE DEMAND FOR OUR GOODS;

--SEEK TO DEFUSE SOME BILATERAL ISSUES BY ACTING ON THEM IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA;

--NOT ALLOW TENSIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO BE RESOLVED AT OUR EXPENSE;

--EASE UP ON EXPLOITING OUR VICTORIES ON FISHING RIGHTS, OVER WHICH THE JAPANESE ARE STILL SMARTING;
AND

--CONTINUE A TOUGH LINE ON SUCH STRICTLY BILATERAL ISSUES AS CIVIL AVIATION AND AGRICULTURAL TRADE ACCESS. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 18918, 12/29.)

2. SADAT: THE PERSONAL TOUCH

IN AN ASSESSMENT OF DECISION-MAKING IN EGYPT, EMBASSY CAIRO NOTES THAT SADAT:

--IS OBSESSED WITH HIS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE ARAB WORLD AND PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE US VIEW HIM AS THE PRINCIPAL ARAB SPOKESMAN;

--TENDS TO PERSONALIZE FOREIGN POLICY TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT RAPPORT, OR LACK OF RAPPORT, WITH ANOTHER NATION'S LEADER MAY SERIOUSLY AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS; AND

--HAS SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH ADVISORS, PICKED PRIMARILY FOR THEIR "LOYALTY," WHO ARE OFTEN RELUCTANT TO BRIEF HIM ON ADVERSE DEVELOPMENTS.

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THE EMBASSY ALSO OBSERVES THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ARAB AFFAIRS, SADAT HAS GIVEN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY WIDE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY IN FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH HE EXERCISES TO THE HILT. (SECRET) CAIRO 17706, 12/23.)

3. UAE: CABINET TROUBLE

EMBASSY ABU DHABI REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE SHAIKH MAKTUM'S ATTEMPTS TO FORM A CABINET COMPOSED OF FORWARD-LOOKING TECHNOCRATS HAVE BEEN BLOCKED BY HIS FATHER, UAE VICE PRESIDENT SHAIKH RASHID. APPARENTLY FEARFUL THAT THE PROPOSED CABINET WOULD CURTAIL HIS FREEDOM OF ACTION, RASHID WOULD PREFER INSTEAD ONE MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF TRADITIONAL FAMILY GROUPS. WITH THE SITUATION THUS AT AN IMPASSE, UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID, WHO SYMPATHIZES WITH MAKTUM, MAY STEP IN AND APPOINT THE CABINET HIMSELF. (SECRET) ABU DHABI 6, 1/2.)

4. IRAQI GROUP SEEKS TO VISIT KURDS IN US

USINT BAGHDAD REPORTS THAT AN IRAQI DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AKRAWI PLANS TO VISIT THE US IN JANUARY. ITS PURPOSE IS TO MEET WITH SOME KURDS IN THE US AND INFORM THEM OF WHAT ACTIONS IRAQ HAS TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTONOMOUS REGION. THE GOI HAS OFFICIALLY INFORMED USINT OF THE DELEGATION'S TRAVEL PLANS AND HAS REQUESTED SECURITY PROTECTION FOR THE GROUP WHILE IN THE US.

PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S COMMENT: THE DELEGATION MEMBERS APPEAR TO BE PRO-GOVERNMENT KURDS WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH KURDISH EXILES IN EUROPE AND THE US. I RECOMMEND WE ISSUE THE VISAS AND RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THEIR REQUEST FOR SECURITY PROTECTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) BAGHDAD 1938, 12/31.)

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